CIIR

The Catholic Institute for International Relations, founded in 1940 is an independent charity which works to overcome poverty and injustice in the third world. In an attempt to educate and inform an Anglophone public internationally, it publishes a variety of books, pamphlets and briefing papers on a wide range of issues. CIIR has followed events in East Timor since Indonesia's invasion in 1975, and has networked, published and lobbied on the issue since then. It publishes Timor Link, a quarterly newsletter of information and analysis on diplomatic developments and news from inside the territory.

IPJET

The International Platform of Jurists for East Timor, officially constituted in November 1991, aimed at establishing a group of specialists who, within their field, could contribute to the ending of the Indonesian occupation of East Timor and to the creation of conditions that would allow its people to exercise self-determination. The membership consists of 130 jurists from more than 30 countries. The IPJET has organised a number of meetings and seminars and has addressed the National Convention of Human Rights in Delhi, the Australian Institute of International Affairs and the UN Committee on Decolonisation.

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CONFERENCE

The
Catholic Institute for International Relations
and the
International Platform of Jurists for East Timor

Indonesia's Occupation of East Timor: Legal Questions

5-6 December, 1992

The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2

Context

It is a year since the under-reported story of East Timor hit the news headlines. The tragic Santa Cruz massacre of November 12 1991 captured on film by Yorkshire Television, was shown on TV screens in many countries, causing indignation, and reminding us of the unresolved situation which since 1975 has claimed thousands of lives. Some of the East Timorese caught up in the demonstration which led to the massacre have since been tried for subversion under Indonesian laws, and have received heavy prison sentences.

Central to the question of East Timor is the illegality of Indonesia's past and present conduct towards the people of the island, and its consequences. A number of important issues arise regarding the legality of the application of Indonesian Laws to East Timorese, who do not accept that they are citizens of the '27th province' of Indonesia. The very occupation of East Timor by Indonesia is regarded as illegal by the United Nations and the European Community.

Portugal has also taken Australia to the International Court of Justice over its deal with Indonesia regarding the exploitation of oil reserves in the Timor Gap.

The increased international attention in a new global climate of negotiated solutions to long-standing conflict means that the time is ripe for an international conference of legal experts to focus on the East Timor issue.

The Conference

The Conference, which will last from 9.30 am Saturday until Sunday lunchtime, will bring together law professors, legal experts and East Timor experts with policy makers, academics and law students, as well as activists. An attempt will be made to look at just, effective and legally acceptable solutions to the question of East Timor, aiming at devising lobbying strategies.

Contributors include:

a) Speakers:

Roger Clark	Distinguished Professor of Law, Rutgers Law School, USA
Garth Nettheim	Professor of Law, University of New South Wales, Australia
François Rigaux	Professor of Law, University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
Iain Scobbie	Lecturer in Law, University of Dundee, Scotland, UK
Paula Escarameia	Professor of Law, ISCSP, Lisbon, Portugal

b) Discussants:

Lauri Hannikainen	Academy of Finland, Helsinki, Finland
Daniel Machover	Solicitor, London, UK
Susan Marks	Lecturer in Law, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, UK
Shambhu Chopra	President, Indian Society of Human Rights, Allahabad, India
Gerry Simpson	Lecturer in Law, University of Melbourne, Australia
Christine Chinkin	Assistant Professor of Law, University of Sydney, Australia
Bill Bowring	East London Polytechnic, UK
Sasha Stepan	Attorney, Melbourne, Australia

Indonesia's Occupation of East Timor: Legal Questions

Registration Form

5-6 December 1992,
The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane London WC2

Name.....
Organisation/Institution.....
.....
Address.....
.....
Telephone.....

Please tick box:

☐ I shall be attending the Conference

☐ I cannot come, but I would like to receive the conference papers

Fee: The Conference Fee is £40 for members of organisations, £25 for individuals, and £10 for unwaged.

To register, please complete and return this form with your conference fee (payable to CIIR) by Friday November 20th to:
Mari King, CIIR, Unit 3 Canonbury Yard, 190A New North Road, London N1 7BJ, UK.
Telephone (44) 71 354 0883 Fax (44) 71 359 0017.